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Directorate of Intelligence

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SYSTEMS TEST.
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Iraqi Ballistic Missile Developments

An Intelligence Assessment

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Iraqi Ballistic Missile Developments (U)

Introduction: A Commitment to Self-Sufficiency

He who launches an aggression against Iraq or the Arab nation will now find someone to repel him. If we can strike him with a stone, we will. With a missile, we will . . . and with all the missiles, bombs, and other means at our disposal.

*Iraq President Saddam Hussein
18 April 1980 (S)*

Iraq has made indigenous missile production one of its highest priorities. This priority is driven by two major goals. First, Iraq wants to demonstrate to its allies and enemies that it has operational missiles with sufficient ranges to threaten Middle Eastern cities. These missiles could be used to deter Israeli attacks and establish Iraq's leadership in the Arab world as a military power and a technologically advanced nation. Second, it wants to end its dependence on foreign support—both for operational missiles and related technology. Only by building its own missile R&D infrastructure of people and facilities can Iraq wean itself of this dependence.

Iraq has come a long way in pursuing these goals. In the past five years, Iraq has moved from third-hand participation in the Argentine Condor II program (inset) to implementation of a diverse, indigenous capability to develop missiles. It has also developed a large procurement network to amass the technology needed for its missiles.

Iraq's current missile development program began to take shape in 1987. The most pressing need at that time was for a ballistic missile capable of reaching Tehran—a distance of about 600 km, or twice the range of Iraq's Soviet-supplied Scud B missiles. We believe that in early 1987 Iraqi engineers started on a project to produce a missile with this range capability. Iraq modified some of its Soviet-origin Scuds to fly to twice the nominal range—at least 600 km. These missiles, which it called Al Husayn, were used during

Argentina-Egypt-Iraq: A Cooperative Venture

In 1984, Iraq, restricted by a limited missile development and production infrastructure and the financial burden incurred during the war with Iran, focused on funding Argentina's and Egypt's missile-development program for the Condor II missile. Iraq transferred funds to Egypt as partial financing for the missile, then under development in Argentina. We do not know the exact terms of the agreement, but we believe Egypt and Iraq provided funding for the Buenos Aires program in return for some of the first missiles to be produced. In addition, both Egypt and Iraq eventually were to gain a production capability.

Iraq also began construction of its own Condor II production facilities in mid-1987. Over the next two and a half years, we believe Iraq continued to fund development of the missile in Argentina, while seeking and acquiring materials needed to produce the Condor II in Iraq. The Condor II program, however, ran into difficulty in mid-1989. International pressure, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and technical setbacks subsequently brought the program to a virtual standstill in Argentina and Egypt. Repeated Argentine attempts to conduct the first flight test of the missile have failed, largely because of technical difficulties with guidance and control. The lack of progress in Argentina threatens now to scuttle the Egyptian effort as well.

It development in both countries seems to be on hold, at least for the time being.

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